

In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Miller has been a devoted and loving husband to his wife Rosella of 37 years and father to his two children Melissa and Kevin. It is with pleasure that I recognize Mr. Michael Miller for his significant contributions and noteworthy dedication and service to his community.

TRIBUTE TO GAIL JOYCE BEAGLE

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues; it is a special honor that I pay tribute today to a great American and civil rights activist since the 1950's, Gail Joyce Beagle, who celebrates her 70th birthday on November 25th.

Gail, who I have known and counted as a friend for at least 46 years, had a long and distinguished career in appointive public service, but since her retirement, continues to work for the public good in a variety of capacities.

Born in Beaumont, Texas on November 25, 1935, she was reared at Nederland on land her maternal grandfather, Martin Block, had earlier farmed for many years. Upon graduation from high school, she entered Texas Woman's University at Denton where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1958. At TWU she held various positions, including Day Editor, on the campus newspaper, the Daily Lass-O. Her academic standing in journalism resulted in her selection for membership in the honorary fraternity for women in journalism called Theta Sigma Phi (now called Association of Women in Communications). (At the turn of the last century women were not allowed in the then all-male journalism societies so it was necessary to establish a separate journalism fraternity for women—with its beginnings at the University of Washington at Seattle.)

When Gail's journalism professors in 1957 told her she could not editorialize in the campus newspaper as to why TWU accepted young women as students from all over the world, but no black women were at the State institution of higher learning, she, in turn, posed this question in an editorial in the Methodist Student Movement's newsletter as to why there were no black women at TWU. During that time she was president of the Methodist college group for both TWU and North Texas State University.

As the result of this effort, the TWU president and a few of his advisory committee faculty members were not happy with her, but she weathered the storm, and continued her integration effort. While working in 1959 for my father, the late Henry B. Gonzalez, then a State senator, who represented San Antonio at Austin, she got a nice telegram from a TWU history professor, congratulating her and telling her that TWU was to accept its first black female students in the fall of 1959.

During the summer of 1957, she was a Texas Daily Newspaper Association intern on the San Antonio Light newspaper, but after college graduation, she did not immediately return to San Antonio, but landed her first job in Austin in late summer 1958. Earlier that

summer, working out of her parents' home, she had a brief stint as Jefferson County volunteer campaign manager for my father's unsuccessful bid to be Governor of Texas.

In the Fall of 1961, she returned to San Antonio as a permanent resident and campaigned in my father's bid to be the first Hispanic from Texas to be elected to Congress where he served in the House for 37 years, and for the most part of those years, Gail served him and the 20th Congressional District of Texas as the Chief of Staff and Press Secretary in Washington, returning home to San Antonio from time to time. Among many achievements for the people, as well as for my father, she was instrumental in his decision to be the first Member of Congress, south of the Mason Dixon line, to hire the first black congressional staff member. The staff member was the late Cora Faye Clayton, a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, who served for 30 years, first in Washington and then in San Antonio, with honor and distinction. Additional milestones for Gail included completion of a Master of Arts degree in Legislative Affairs (MALA) from George Washington University.

Earlier in Austin, Gail had served on the State Executive Committee of the Young Democrats of Texas and was involved in many civil rights demonstrations in 1959–61, including several at a University of Texas campus area movie house which would not sell tickets to blacks, even if they were students at UT. Further, the restaurants there would not serve blacks unless they had a UT student ID card. Gail says a State senator one time got out of his car, walked down the line observing the young demonstrators at the movie house, and then harassed them, as he walked away denouncing them, under his breath, as a "bunch of communists." When Gail came to Washington with my father in late 1961, she, as well as other women, was denied membership in several organizations, including the Texas Breakfast Club, a Washington discussion group. It took years for those barriers for women to come down!

Currently, Gail is president of the Henry B. Gonzalez Foundation for Inspiring Public Service which seeks to establish, at the downtown campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio, a center, named for my father, for Public Service, Integrity and Courage. She is also the Democratic chair for my precinct, and is active in many social, religious, and public service endeavors. For a few months she was the interim director of the Guadalupe Community Center that serves a poor neighborhood in my district.

Gail, your record of service and achievements could fill a book. I congratulate you and wish you a happy and healthy 70th birthday, with many more to come!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 17, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in my family and thus missed rollcall vote No. 600. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE CEDAR CREEK ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the Cedar Creek Rotary Club for their 19 years of service to Henderson County. Throughout its history, the Cedar Creek Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Cedar Creek Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships for local youth, exchange programs, and faculty and student luncheons. Their support in the community can be seen through their involvement in local organizations. They helped start the Genesis Center for abused women. In addition, they strongly support organizations, such as the Rainbow Room, Toys for Tots, local school programs and the YMCA.

Through these initiatives, the Cedar Creek Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR TIMOTHY WROBLEWSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a friend and fellow public official whose service has been exemplary and whose commitment to the residents and taxpayers of the towns of West Seneca and Cheektowaga, and the residents of the county of Erie at large, has been commendable. Today, I wish to honor the service of retiring Erie County Legislator Timothy Wroblewski.

Tim Wroblewski began his career as an elected official as a member of the West Seneca Town Board. During that service, Tim worked with local officials to make West Seneca's government among the most efficient and effective local governments in New York State—forging relationships across party lines and working cooperatively with civic, government and community leaders to make West Seneca government the envy of local governments statewide.

With an open-seat election for the ninth legislative district seat available in 2004, Tim